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SUBJECT Efforts by Regime to Change Christmas Traditions/Memory of Masaryk

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1. "It is strange how the time flies--there is Xmas again in a few weeks. I wonder how it will look like. The regime here tried to suppress all the old customs and they want to introduce to our people foreign Xmas ways and traditions. For centuries it has been Jesus Christ who has brought Xmas presents to the children of this country. Nowadays it will be Grandfather Frost who will come from the USSR. I would like to know who will celebrate Xmas in this way. Anyway it will be a poor Xmas anyway due to the general situation of the people here. There are many things in the shops, but there is little money. The prices according to year 1938 (before war) have risen five times at least, but the income is lower by nearly 60 percent according to that year. It is more than cruel and there is no end to it. Well, I think it is better to leave this.
2. "About a fortnight ago I sent you a letter with a few booklets on Czechoslovakia. This time I send you a few picture postcards and a few stamps. It is a set of stamps that was edited in honor of the first Czechoslovakian president, T. G. Masaryk. He is banned nowadays here and his works are officially prohibited. That is only officially, for the people here still stick to his memory. Last week I read a nice book about him, "Talking with TOM" by Karel Capek. I am sure you have heard about Karel Capek -he was the author of the famous play "RUR." I have even heard this play broadcast by BBC some years ago.
3. "I am very sorry that I must tell you I did not get the parcel you sent to me in August. I was looking forward to it so much and know some very, very mean person must have taken it. I do not find words which I could use in a letter to describe it is fully. And you cannot apply to anybody here (for an investigation to be made). The only way seems to send everything by registered mail, then one has the possibility to ask for the number at least."

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